Weightage for Better Performing States in Population Control

3434. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the States, who have achieved tremendous progress in population control in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to freeze the delimitation plan or alternatively create a formula where weightage was given to better performing States for controlling population growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALTI EZHILMALAI): (a) The States of Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have already reached the birth rate less than 21 per thousand population as per Sample Registration System (SRS) 1996. The decline in the birth rate as per SRS duirng the decade 1986—1996 is more than 25% in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Tripura, Sikkim, Delhi and Union Territories of Chandigarh, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.

(b) and (c) According to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs, no decision has been taken yet by them to make any changes in the existing constitutional provisions in this regard.

गुटका/पान मसाला पर नियंत्रण रखने के लिए कानूनी कदम

3435. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुटका/पान मसाला स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है;

(ख) यदि सरकार ने इस निर्णय तक पहुंचने के लिए कोई अध्ययन किया है, तो उसकी रिपोर्ट का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार स्वास्थ्य संबंधी खतरे को कम करने के लिए कोई कानूनी कदम उठाने जा रही है; और

(घ) क्या यह कदम देश की सिगरेट लाबी के दबाव में उठाया जा रहा है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एजिलमलाई): (क) और (ख) स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशक की अध्यक्षता वाली विशेषज्ञों की एक उच्च स्तरीय तकनीकी समिति ने भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद तथा अन्य अनुसंधान संस्थाओं द्वारा उपलब्ध कराए गए वैज्ञानिक साक्ष्यों के आधार पर यह निष्कर्ष निकाला है कि चबाने वाले तम्बाकू (गुटका) से युक्त पान मसाले का सेवन स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है।

(ग) खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण नियम, 1955 के प्रावधानों के अनुसार पान मसाला और चबाने वाले तम्बाकू के उत्पादों के पैकेजों के लेवल पर सांविधिक चेतावनी देना अनिवार्य है। इसके अतिरिक्त दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी पर भी नवम्बर 90 से पान मसाला और तम्बाकू उत्पादों के विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया है। सभी राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के खाद्य स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे इन उत्पादों के सेवन को हतोत्साहित करने के लिए लोगों को शिक्षित करें। राष्ट्रीय कैंसर नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जागरूकता लाने के कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से भी गुटका के सेवन में कमी लाने की भी परिकल्पना की गई है।

(घ) जी नहीं।

Threat posed by 'Bird Flu' in Hong Kong

3436. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the threatof endemic disease of "Influenza AH5NI"in Hong Kong;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent such "bird flu" in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALTI EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A strain of influenza virus previously known to only infect birds was isolated from a three years old child in May, 1997 in Hong Kong. Thirteen confirmed, and six suspected cases of influenza due to virus strain H5N1 have been reported from Hong Kong.

(c) and (d) Short term and long term measures have been taken to prevent the inadvertent ingress of avian Influenza (Bird Flu) into India. These include a ban on import of domestic and wild birds from countries. Where the diseases was reported, monitoring and Surveillance measuers and observance of strict quarantine measures on the import of poultry and poultry products.

Necessary test kits have been obtained from centres for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA, and facilities for Laboratory tests are available at National Institute of Virology, Pune and National Institute of Communicable Diseases in the unlikely event of an outbreak.

National Institute of Communicable Disease, Delhi has already alerted the State health authorities in the country in January, 1998.

Law to Ban Human Cloning

3437. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from ICMR requesting to enact a law banning human cloning;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal of ICMR; and

(c) Government's reaction to the communication from ICMR?

THE MINISTER OF STETE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) DA Draft Consultative Document on Ethical Guidelines on Biomedical Research involving Human subjects had been prepared by the Central Ethical Committee of ICMR. One of the major areas covered by this document related to Human Genetics wherein a ban on Human cloning by law has been suggested. This document has been circulated to leading Scientific and Non-Scientific Institutions/Organisations medical Colleges, State Health Departments. Faculty of Law, Journalists and other eminent citizens of the country inviting their comments. Government will take a view after the ICMR finalises their approach based on the comments received.

Opening of New CGHS Homeopathic Units in Delhi

3438. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed in providing an efficient and meaningful medical care and services to CGHS beneficiaries by not opening more C.G.H.S. Homeopathic units in Delhi since 1986 due to resources and infrastructural constraints;

(b) whether demands for establishment of CGHS Homeopathic units in Delhi are continuing till date; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not giving amphasis to the development of I.S.M. and Homoepathy and opening of units under CGHS?